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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 319, February 11, 4 p.m.

Excitement occasioned by removal Supreme Court Justices (my telegram 317, February 10) has largely subsided though there is still considerable underlying tension and government authorities have under arrest some 50 persons involved in recent disorders.

While limited number of lawyers announced they were closing their offices as protest, no one regards this as more than a gesture. Executive Committee of Lawyers College has stated association will not recognize removal of judges. This is temporary expedient, since new Justices are only to serve out unexpired terms of recent Justices ending March 15 when new elections of Justices take place.

Congress has now completed Supreme Court bench. One position had remained unfilled (my telegram 307 February 5, because Jose Antonio Ruano Mejia elected February 5) declined to serve. A further position became vacant when it was found Ricardo Chaves Nachmann, also elected February 5, failed to meet constitutional requirement of 8 years previous legal practice. To fill those positions Congress elected February 10 Albert Inaz, Secretary of Interior 1927-29, now judge of Administrative Court, and Francisco Delgadillo Zamora, now judge Court of Appeals, both regarded as undistinguished.

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